



WEEKEND BEST BET

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE STATE TOURNAMENT

Preps bring slap shots to state hockey meet

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A throng of 240 high school hockey players descends on Urbandale today through Sunday.

Members of eight teams from three states will skate, pass and check their way through the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament, which starts at 1 p.m. at the ice arena in Urbandale.

The top-seeded Des Moines Capitals have won 20 of their last 21 games, while the Des Moines Oak Leafs seek revenge in today's quarterfinal round.

"The crowd will be fantastic," Capitals coach Scott Krueger said. "The fact that we are playing in our own rink will be an advantage."

The regular-season champion Capitals (25-5-0) play eighth-seeded Ames at 7:45 p.m. in today's last game.

The Oak Leafs (20-10-0), last season's state tournament runners-up, set a team mark for most wins this season.

At 5:30 p.m. they play Sioux City, the team that knocked them out of the 2003 championship. The

Tickets

- Weekend pass—Adults \$20; Students, seniors \$15.
- Daily pass—Adults \$8; Students, seniors \$6.
- 12 and under get in free.

Metros needed three overtimes to beat the Oak Leafs in last year's final.

"We've got a little revenge factor there," Oak Leafs coach Doug Borud said. "The kids want to play that card now. They want some redemption."

If both Des Moines teams win today, they will meet in the semifinals at noon Saturday — also a rematch of last season.

The Oak Leafs shut out the Capitals, 3-0, in the 2003 semifinals.

The Capitals, who last won a state title in 2000, finished second in 2001 and 2002.

"Our goal was to get the No. 1 seed," Krueger said. "We have to take advantage of the position we put ourselves in."

The championship game takes place at 2:45 p.m. Sunday.

Schedule, Sports Roundup